



WINLPG

Women in LPG



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Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.

At the age of two, I was plucked away from my birth island, Reunion in the Indian Ocean, to make my first steps in Holland. This event added an extra dimension to my path of becoming an adult. Truth be told, I have suffered many years of the feeling 'not to belong' and it took me a long time to develop my own identity.

In hindsight this has forged my character: out of an innate desire to be accepted I felt I had to work twice as hard and excel in everything I undertook. As such, I have developed a genuine and acute allergy for anyone who can make me feel again as if I do not belong...

After a divers career path, I joined Petredec in 2008. The group had acquired the LPG activity of, at the time, Chevron in Reunion and was looking for a do-it-all type of manager. Someone had suggested me. I remember saying "but I know nothing of LPG!" to which I got the response "you do not need to in order to be a good manager".

I learned the ins and outs of the LPG business on the job. First as manager of the challenging LPG cylinder distribution business in Reunion, then as Regional Manager South Indian Ocean implicated in the construction and set up of an LPG terminal in Mauritius as from 2012. I moved to Mauritius in 2013 to assume the role of General Manager of the terminal; yet another type of business with its own set of challenges. Today I oversee both businesses, hence my current title Head of Downstream & Storage.

What is next? No idea, but I'm sure it will come to me at the right time.

"WHAT IF I FALL? OH BUT MY
DARLING, WHAT IF YOU FLY!"

Erin Hanson

SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today?

Now that I finally feel comfortable in my job and I have found my sense of 'belonging' I would like to inspire others. My goal today is to make a genuine difference. To positively touch as many lives as I possibly can.

Did you have a mentor and how did this help?

I have never had a specific mentor, but I have been lucky to have worked with managers who were willing to support me in my personal and business development by challenging me beyond the boundaries of my job description.

Describe your Pathway?

Eager to travel the world, I did not have the patience to study. I started working at the age of 18 as a secretary. My career path since is a series of doors opening and me jumping through them. I guess I'm more the entrepreneurial type: I prefer to act on possibilities and opportunities I see in front of me. Just do it.

What does leadership mean to you?

I have this image of a conductor in front of an orchestra. He guides the orchestra members to come together in harmony. He inspires each member to play his or her part at their best ability. He encourages breath taking solos and demands for applause for his team. His ultimate goal is the shared satisfaction of creating beautiful music together and let all those involved enjoy themselves while doing so.

Did you face any specific challenges?

The greatest challenges I faced were the ones put up by.... myself! To name one: the challenge of staying true to yourself. That is, a woman. In the beginning I was tempted to act more like a man, even look more like a man, blend in. It took me a bit of time to realise that as a woman you bring another, much needed, dimension to the table. And that's definitely an asset!

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

Stay true to yourself. Don't feel tempted to play a role that's not yours. Even though LPG is a men's world today, you definitely add to the table, don't under estimate yourself!

Never be afraid to ask questions.

Push yourself regularly beyond your comfort zone. When hesitating just ask yourself this one question: what is the worst that can happen to me? Not much most of the time, trust me.



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